



Namibia

MCC Learning from

**“FINAL REPORT OF THE NAMIBIA
INDIGENOUS NATURAL PRODUCTS EVALUATION”**

NORC, MAY 2017

MCC has identified the following programmatic and evaluation lessons based on the Namibia Indigenous Natural Products Final Evaluation Report.

PROGRAMMATIC LESSONS

- *It is important to balance supply and demand.* For INPs that were in high demand, such as Ximenia, ensuring a consistent supply proved challenging; for INPs which were in abundant supply, creating higher demand nationally and internationally was difficult. The evaluation noted that the intervention emphasized the supply side of the value chain more than the demand side, so perhaps more could have been done to address the imbalance. Future interventions that focus on production of agricultural or other goods, should consider both supply and demand since getting the balance right is key for achieving and sustaining results.

EVALUATION LESSONS

- *MCC-funded evaluations need to follow MCC’s evaluation standards.* MCC’s [Evaluation Management Guidance](#) was developed after this evaluation started. The guidance aims to ensure MCC funded evaluations are worth their costs and protect against some challenges encountered here including, for example, issuing evaluation contracts that fail to consider or require measuring key outcomes at appropriate times and collecting primary data for an evaluation before an evaluator has been contracted. As noted by the evaluators in their revised Evaluation Design Report, the baseline household survey occurred before the evaluation team was hired. Although driven by a sense of urgency to capture a baseline, failing to fully anticipate the evaluation’s data needs ultimately served to limit the evaluation. Therefore, it is critical to ensure that evaluators guide the sampling methodology and instrument design to collect the data necessary to complete desired analysis as well as measuring key outcomes at appropriate times.